

# Avila Examiner

Vol. 10 No. 12

Avila College, Kansas City, MO

April 2, 1986

## Men and Women's Basketball Wind up Winning Season

### Avalanche Score a First

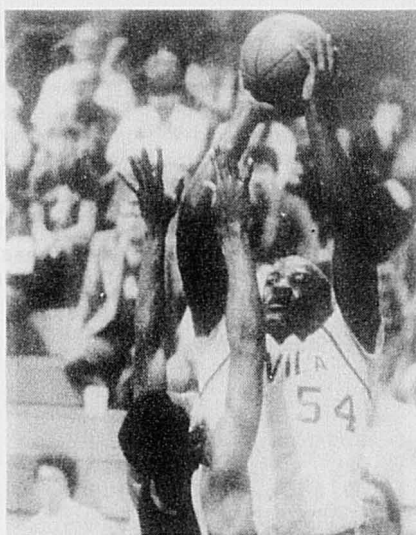
by Dan Mabrey

Avila men's basketball winning season of 20 games was the first in the history of the men's basketball program at Avila. The 85-86 team ended their season with a 20-8 record.

In addition to winning the most games in a season in the history of the school, the Avalanche scored the highest amount of points for one game in an impressive 119-94 win over Mid-America Nazarene College.

Three returning All-District players from last season, Rubin Hardin, Barnet Walker, and Kendrick Lewis, led Avila to a third appearance in four years at the District 16 playoffs. They were defeated in a tough first round game, 99-95, by Missouri Southern State in Joplin, Missouri.

Head Coach Dennis Joyce has established a 65-50 record in leading Avila to three post-season playoff births since taking over the helm four years ago. He said the key to this year's success was the team's overall quickness and shooting ability.



Dennis Joyce was assisted this season by Fred Turner and Don Earnst.

Avila was led in scoring by Senior Mike Weathers, a transfer from Drake University, with 462 points. The top rebounder was Barnet Walker with 258. Kendrick Lewis

accumulated the most free throw points with 148.

Top highlights for the season included wins over District 16 rivals Rockhurst and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. According to Coach Joyce, the biggest thrill of the year was a 70-68 overtime victory over Drury College of Springfield, Missouri. Drury had previously beaten the top rated team among the NAIA Division that same week.

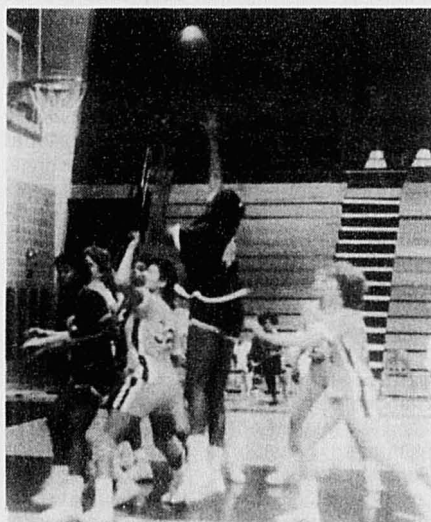
Although the team had one of the most statistically successful seasons in the history of the program, Walker feels the team could have done better. "Overall we had a good season, but we could have won 24 games and lost fewer," Walker said.

"We had an up-and-down year, but we played up to our ability against all of the good teams," Lewis said.

Seniors Baron Dickson and Greg Patterson were pleased with the season's outcome. "I felt good that we broke the school record for most wins and had the highest amount of points for one game for any Avila team," Dickson said.

It was good to win 20 games because that is something no other Avila team has done," Patterson said.

### Lady Avalanche Set Record



On February 22, the Lady Avalanche ended their regular season play on a winning note. They defeated Evangel College from Springfield, 80-76, completing the season with a record of 17-10. Freshman Linda Frencher led the team with 22 points against Evangel while Diane McLaury added 18. Cathy Brandt and Jenny Yarshen scored 15 and 10 points respectively.

The record the Lady Avalanche earned during the season proved to be Avila women's basketball program's first victorious record. In the past, the team had been unable to produce even a .500 season.

Along with the first winning season, Avila was able to lead the district in team defense, allowing their opponents to score only 62.6 points per game. "We worked all pre-season on our defense," said one player. "We didn't enjoy it, but, in the long run, it paid off."

Throughout the season, the Avalanche was led by steady performances from several of the team members. Freshman Linda Frencher led the team in both rebounding and scoring. Frencher averaged 14.3 points per game while pulling down 9.3 rebounds. Frencher was named 2nd team All-District for her efforts.

Freshmen Cathy Brandt, Jenny Yarshen and Diane McLaury also made sizable contributions to Avila's winning season. Brandt led the team in free throw percentage with 72, while averaging 10.5 points a game. As a whole, the team shot 64 percent from the charity stripe. Yarshen, averaging 11 points a game and 6.9 rebounds, was named 3rd team All-District. McLaury averaged 9.7 points and gave out 118 assists.

"We had a great season this year, but next year should be even better," said Jenny Yarshen.

### Publication Schedule

Apr 8	Tues	Copy deadline
Apr 16	Wed	Publication
Apr 22	Tues	Copy deadline
Apr 30	Wed	Publication

Copy must be typewritten, double spaced on white paper and in by copy due date in order to be included in the next issue. Black and white photos may be submitted. Send copy to: Rebecca Wenske, Communication Studies, O'Reilly.

The opinions expressed in the Avila Examiner do not necessarily represent the official position of Avila College. The paper reserves the right to edit and print all letters, stories, articles, cartoons, games, poems, jokes, and artwork received. All copy received becomes the property of the Avila Examiner.

#### Examiner Staff

Rebecca Cisek	Dan Mabrey	Rebecca Wenske,
Pat Pruitt	Debbie Amos	Faculty Advisor
Barnet Walker	Jennifer Jiles	
Angela Lynas,	Kathy Martin,	Candace Donnell,
Art	Art	Photography

### Folk Concert

Andy M. Stewart and Manus Lunny, well-known Gaelic folk musicians, will present a concert of music from Scotland and Ireland on Saturday, April 19 at 8 p.m. at Community Christian Church, 4601 Main St., Kansas City, Missouri. Tickets are \$7.00 and \$4.00 (with current student I.D.) This concert is supported by Missouri Folklife Society and Missouri Arts Council.

# avila COLLEGE

11901 Wornall Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64145

## Special Course Offerings

The following courses are offered through the Department of Continuing Education, 942-8400, ext. 280. Pre-registration for these courses is required.

**Effective Legal Drafting.** Friday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to noon.

**Data Base Management.** Wednesdays, April 9 through April 30, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**How to be Interviewed Effectively on Radio or Television.** Friday, April 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Winning as a Stepfamily.** Friday, April 25, from 7 to 9 p.m., free public forum. Saturday, April 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Fee is required for this all day workshop)

**Women's Financial Forum.** Saturday, April 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**How to Get Free Publicity.** Thursday, April 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Pre-License Instruction-Real Estate Sales Course.** Monday through Friday, April 1, to 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Introduction to Drawing.** Mondays, April 7 through May 12, from noon to 2 p.m.

**Mutual Funds as Investments.** Thursdays, April 3 through April 10, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For information on the following course, contact Judy Gibbs, 942-8400, ext. 325.

**Communication of Legal Terms in Plain English.** Friday, April 4, from 8:30 to 5 p.m. and Saturday April 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## \$\$\$ Scholarship Announcement \$\$\$

The Avila College Alumni Board is looking for scholarship candidates for the 1986-87 academic year. The Board will be awarding two \$200 scholarships for the upcoming academic year. The eligibility requirements are as follows:

**SISTER OLIVE LOUISE DALLAVIS SCHOLARSHIP:** must be a senior (in '86-87 academic year) majoring in Theatre, Music, Art, or Communication; must have a 3.25 cumulative grade point average; must not be a recipient of an Avila Presidential Scholarship or a Scholarship Sponsors award; must complete the Alumni Scholarship application and the Financial Aid application.

**ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP:** Must be a sophomore majoring in Allied Health Field, Education, Business Administration or Nursing; must have a 3.25 cumulative grade point average; must have completed 24 credit hours at Avila College at the end of the spring, '86 semester; must not be a recipient of an Avila Presidential Scholarship or a Scholarship Sponsors award; must complete the Alumni Scholarship application and the Financial Aid application.

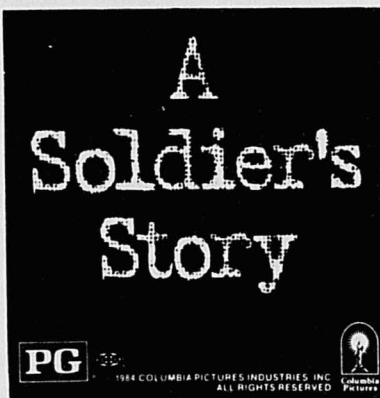
**Applications for both scholarships are due in the Financial Aid Office by Monday, March 31st.**

## Conference Studies Peaceful Uses of Space.

The Greater Kansas City Chapter of the United Nations Association-USA invites the public to attend a work-shop conference "Developing The Final Frontier: International Cooperation and Competition in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space," April 12, 1986 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on the Rockhurst College Campus, Massman Hall, Room 250.

The conference will involve participants in discussions focused on crucial issues related to the development of the resources of outer space, the prospects of international cooperation, the possible effects of SDI (Star Wars) on international cooperation and the question of "who shall decide?". Robert Bowman, President, Institute for Space and Security Studies, will give the keynote address.

Registration is \$15 prior to April 1, \$18 after, and \$10 for students. This includes lunch. For further information, call Greater Kansas City Chapter UNA/USA 561-0283 or Susan Adler, Rockhurst College, 926-4140.



S.U.B. Film  
Friday, April 4  
7 & 9 p.m.  
Marian Centre - Free

## Noted Pianist Performs in Kansas City

Viennese-born pianist Anton Kuerti concludes the Friends of Chamber Music's 10th Anniversary Season with a performance at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at the Folly Theater. The artist, whom legendary pianist Rudolf Serkin called "one of the finest pianists alive," will be playing a program of Brahms, Schubert and Beethoven.

Cynthia Siebert, founder-director of Friends of Chamber Music calls Mr. Kuerti, "by any measure, astonishing."

Emigrating to the United States as a youth, Kuerti studied with such renowned musicians as Arthur Loesser, Mieczyslaw Horszowski and Rudolf Serkin. Conductor Arthur Fiedler invited him, at age 11, to play the Grieg Concerto with the Boston Pops. He shot to prominence a few years later when he won the prestigious Leventritt Award, earning him invitations to play with North American's most famous conductors and orchestras. He has toured 25 countries.

Tickets for Kuerti's performance, partially underwritten by the Missouri Arts Council, may be obtained at the Folly Theater, the Classic Cup in Westport, or by calling 444-4429.

## Commencement Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed on Saturday, May 10, 1986 for:  
Graduation Mass 4:00 p.m.  
Commencement Ceremony 6:00 p.m.

If you are willing to usher at one or both of these events, please contact Mrs. Wolfe in the Academic Dean's office, extension 208/209.

## Student Affairs Coordinates Campus Life

by Rebecca J. Cisek

Tom Lease is never bored; he simply has no time to be.

As Vice President of Student Affairs, he oversees twelve different aspects of campus life. Among these are health services, career development, counseling, college skills, athletics, maintenance, housekeeping, housing, food services, Marian Centre, central reservations (meaning reserving facilities for groups and not that Mr. Lease runs a hotel on the side), and student development. The last two previously were under the heading of Student Life. The Student Life classification no longer structurally exists although some offices in Marian Centre do retain the title. Mr. Lease also serves as the faculty advisor for student government.

The focal points of the student affairs spectrum include student government which provides policy, service and direction for student activities; the student union board which develops programming for the college community; and the student activity fee board which finances the various organizations. Representatives from 16 different campus organizations come together twice a semester in the Council of Presidents to enhance communication among their groups.

Mr. Lease described the role of student affairs as "working with people...to provide whatever services are reasonable...and working with students who want to do programming."

The schedule of the Vice President of Student Affairs is filled with dozens of weekly meetings. Mr. Lease attends institutional meetings like the computer policy meetings, executive committee gatherings that presently include the inauguration of Avila President Dr. Larry Kramer, and meetings with his own Student Life staff, to name a few. In addition, Mr. Lease talks with students over individual concerns and solicits donations for the college.

Tom Lease came to Avila in July 1976. He was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and attended college at Moorhead State University. His previous position prior to coming to Avila was as Assistant Director of the College Center at Rochester Community College. Mr. Lease initially expected to remain at Avila only three years and then move on to a larger college. However, his responsibilities have changed in such a way each year to make his job interesting enough for him to have remained 10 years. "Every day is different than the day before," Mr. Lease said.

From budgeting for programming to reserving a room for an organization to meet, Student Affairs with Tom Lease as its head plans and coordinates the "growth opportunities" students are engaged in beyond the classroom.



# Social Work Sponsors Hunger Awareness

The Avila College community will turn its focus on the issue of hunger in Kansas City during the week of April 14-18 through the activities of Care in Action: Hunger in K.C. 1986, sponsored by the social work department.

Thursday, April 17, will be the main event day for Care in Action. The morning will begin with two Kansas City speakers on hunger. At 9 a.m., Susan Lyke of Emergency Food Assistance through the Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries and also a member of Bread for the World will speak on the problems of hunger on both the local and world levels. David Shulman will speak at 10:30 a.m. He is executive director of the Mid-America Assistance Coalition which works with 151 food pantries in the Kansas City Metro area. He has been involved with low income people and the problem of hunger since 1974. At 12 p.m. there will be an all-campus Mass centering on the theme of hunger. Steve Hummel, administrative manager of Harvesters' food bank, will speak at 1:30 p.m. on his organization's role in the solution. Tentatively scheduled are a film on hunger to be shown from 3-4 p.m. and a dance later that evening.

During the week, Care in Action is hoping for campus involvement in hunger related activities. Planned, but not yet confirmed, events include a student/faculty basketball game sponsored by the athletic department, a special hunger demonstrating meal to be served by SAGA food service in the cafeteria, free-will donations in the snack bar, and a trip to a food kitchen by the history club. The Women's Leadership Institute and the alumni have also pledged their participation.

A donation of food or money will be asked as admission to each activity during the week and the food will be sent to Harvesters' food bank. "It's hard to pick one specific agency,"

by Rebecca J. Cisek



Rhea Winslow and Sr. Pat Gillespie listen to ideas for Hunger Week.

said social work senior Mary Beth Shay. However, because Harvesters distributes to various organizations in Kansas City, it "will do the most good."

The hunger project originated from the sensitivity of social work seniors to community problems. The main focus of the event is "to raise the awareness of the Avila community toward hunger in Kansas City," said social work senior Midge Cygan. Mary Beth Shay hopes people will "donate their time" to the problem of hunger as a result and she also regards the event as "something to unite the college."

It is fitting, then, that the steering committee which is coordinating the event is made up

of people from various disciplines. Faculty committee members include Jeff Morgeneg, instructor in physics from the Natural and Allied Health Sciences and Mathematics Department, Sr. Pat Gillespie from Campus Ministry, administration representative Gary Morgan, and Director of Public Relations Sandi Garron. Social work members are director Rhea Winslow, Mary Beth Shay, and Gerri Horeman.

Although it is the responsibility of her position to promote any Avila activity, Sandi Garron also personally believes in the cause. "It's important that people identify Avila as a caring school," she said.

Avila's hunger project comes in a time of great need for the poor of Kansas City. According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, there was a 50 percent rise in the demand for emergency food in Kansas City in the past year with the hardest people hit being women with children. Twenty percent of this need was unmet.

Midge Cygan explained the task that projects like Care in Action hope to accomplish is that of solving "the immediate problem [of hunger in homes] until the check comes." She said that a shift in the livelihood of the poor, such as a loss of a job or excessive medical bills, usually forces them to look for assistance.

In response to those who might feel that getting free food is an easy way out, Midge pointed out that the food being distributed "is nothing someone would relish having" and "people would rather buy food on their own." A certain degree of embarrassment is present when people need to make requests of the food lockers. But, to weed out possible abusers of the system, food lockers keep records of recipients. In addition, some type of agency referral, like that of the Social Service Agency, is needed to receive aid.

## Gearhart Revs Up Resource Center

by Pat Pruitt

"Gladly would he learn, and gladly teach." Weldon Gearhart is too young to have met Geoffrey Chaucer, but Chaucer's line from the Canterbury Tales aptly describes him. Weldon Gearhart is a man dedicated to learning and helping others learn. Working in his first semester at Avila as coordinator of college skills, Gearhart is applying that dedication in areas that will benefit students, by inaugurating new programs and revitalizing programs that have not been used for some time.

One of the new programs being initiated is a session in test taking for those students who will be taking the ACT. "Students attending these sessions will learn tips on how to take standardized tests that should help them to score better on the ACT," Gearhart said.

Gearhart is also initiating a program for test review sessions. This is a session held at a time outside of regular class time, usually the night before the test. The purpose of the session is to review course materials to prepare for the test. Gearhart says the session can be held for any class where the instructor feels such a session would be helpful.

Gearhart is also busy planning summer sessions in study skills for high school and junior high school students. This program, which has not been offered at Avila for several years, is being revitalized by Gearhart in shorter sessions in an effort to attract more students.

The computer-aided-instruction (CAI) program is also being expanded. Gearhart plans to continue adding discs to this program.

Two tutors are working with Gearhart this semester: Missy Falling, who tutors English and reading; and George Hoerman, who tutors computer science. Gearhart firmly believes that every student who is having problems in a course should be able to get help. "If a student is faltering in a course despite additional help from a teacher, and if I am unable to find a tutor for the student, I tutor the student myself," Gearhart said. Sometimes this involves first teaching himself the material, something he finds exciting. "Through helping someone, I'm learning too," he added.

As a way of continuing his learning process, Gearhart takes home CAI tapes or

worksheets every night. "I want to familiarize myself with every piece of material available in the Human Resource Center," Gearhart said. In this way he will be better able to help students.

Prior to working at Avila, Gearhart worked at Maryville as a research assistant, investigating the feasibility of CAI in composition courses. "I read virtually everything in print for the last 25 years on the topic," Gearhart said. As a result of the study, the school purchased 50 computers. He also taught composition courses and an English as a Second Language course, a course that Gearhart eventually hopes to see taught at Avila. "As a five-year goal, I hope that Avila will have a higher foreign enrollment as foreign students can add so much to college experiences. They help American students learn about things they'd never learn otherwise," Gearhart said.

In his spare time Gearhart enjoys viewing foreign films at the Nelson Art Gallery. While working at Maryville, he ran the foreign film series.



Interns majoring in business met Saturday, March 15 to discuss their progress. This was the first such gathering of business interns, according to Bob Samson, advisor. The interns are (from left to right) Renee Beatty, Eastern Airlines; Bob Hoog, Johnson County Indoor Sports; Linda Morris and Christie Epps, Avila Public Relations; Bob Samson, advisor; Janet Fischer, Merrill Lynch; Mary Jane Kavanaugh, Eastern Airlines.

## Faculty/Staff Work to Improve Communication

by Pat Pruitt

While students were enjoying a break on March 6, Avila faculty members and staff were attending an all-day retreat.

According to Dr. Larry Sullivan, chemistry professor who worked on the planning committee for the event, the seminar was held to meet several objectives: to promote a better understanding of the diversity of goals and needs among staff, faculty and students to work toward more cooperative communication, and to increase retention of students and faculty members.

Frank Brennan, a local communication consultant, led the seminar. "We selected Brennan because the proposal materials submitted by his firm matched the objectives we had identified," said Sullivan. Brennan also had been a part-time faculty member and, therefore, was familiar with the school and its policies. Brennan had been recommended by several faculty members who had previously attended a Brennan seminar.

The retreat consisted of presentations by Brennan, small group discussions, and reports to the entire body by each small group.

Response to the event has been positive. Instructors and staff have viewed it as an excellent cooperative effort from which many new ideas emerged. "At the end of the day, people felt very positive about working at Avila. We feel it was a very good experience for the day, and it met the objective we had outlined for the program," Sullivan said.

## Theatre Performs Pinafore

**HMS Pinafore**, a musical by Gilbert and Sullivan, will be presented by the theatre department on April 11, 12 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. in Goppert Theatre.

Set in a period when Britain's square-rigged warships roamed the world, the play presents the intricate relationships among four interesting characters: a ship's captain and his daughter, a young man who has fallen in love with the daughter, and a peddler woman who loves the captain.

Information about ticket prices is available at the Goppert Theatre box office, 942-8408.

## Business and Econ offer European Tour

The Department of Business and Economics is offering a 24 day International Business Seminar that will take students to Brussels, Paris, Luxembourg, Cologne, Stuttgart, Munich, Krems, and Vienna. The itinerary includes visits and discussions at Mercedes-Benz, Messerschmitt Aviation, Hewlett Packard, Krupp, West Germany Radio and Television, Lenz Moser Winery, Goodyear, Alfred Ritter (Chocolate Factory), Paris Chamber of Commerce, and Veuve Champagnes. Sight-seeing plans include tours of the Louvre, Champs-Elysee, Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Brussels Grand Palace, Berchtesgaden Versailles' palace, Munich's museums, Olympic stadiums, and a cruise on the Rhine. For more information contact Judy Gibbs--Business and Economics Department--Ext. 325.

## Avila Art Department Provides varied Emphases

by Rebecca J. Clsek

An observer can see almost anything—from record players to hanging mannequins—on exhibit now in Thornhill Gallery until April 11. "Things From Things Done, Set Aside to See" by Kansas City artist Craig Bruns includes objects he has previously presented at "late night neighborhood gatherings" in Kansas City and then things he has shown in a hotel lobby. His work is highly serendipitous and is an extension of his deeply personal relationship with God.

The exhibition by Mr. Bruns is one of six shows held each year in Thornhill since its opening in the late 1970's. Carol Zastoupil coordinates the shows which so far have been dominated by the works of visiting artists rather than student artists.

Associate professor of Art, Sr. Colette Marie Doering reports that Thornhill's exhibits have received very favorable reviews this year from "The Kansas City Star's" art critic Donald Hoffman. A recent showing by John Neuman involving art about the Kansas State Penitentiary sold \$5750 of his work. Avila makes a ten percent profit on all sales. An exhibit by two of Avila's alumni is being planned for next October.

Thornhill Gallery is known beyond the buildings of the Avila campus. According to Sr. Colette, "Cultural groups in Kansas City know Avila for Thornhill Gallery....It is highly respected [in the community] as a small gallery."

Another adjunct to the art facilities at Avila is the Art Guild: Avila. Judy Thompson, 1985 Avila art graduate, is president of the Guild which was begun in September 1985 in response to declining funds for the art department. Officially organized on January 2, 1986, the Guild's twenty active members have all been associated with Avila. Ms. Thompson felt the Avila art department should remain a vital component of the college because of its responsibilities and con-

tributions to the community. The Guild's goal is to raise \$1,000 per year in scholarships for art majors. Members of the Guild include Avila artists, such as painter Judy Thompson and potter Barbara Williams, who exhibit and sell their works. The Guild is not simply made up of artists, however, as one of the most active members is former Avila business administration major Jackie Burger who became interested in art through art appreciation classes. She is presently vice-president of the Guild.

The final facet of Avila's art focus is the art department itself, located somewhat obscurely under the Ridgway dormitory. Sr. Colette describes the department as "the best kept secret on campus." (And since Avila President Dr. Larry Kramer says Avila College itself is the best kept secret in Kansas City, the art department is "the best kept secret in the best kept secret in Kansas City".) Well equipped to serve its students, the department boasts a spacious ceramics area that can be labeled a "little art institute" for its excellent facilities that include an outdoor kiln and numerous work stations. The art department also has a collection of over 7,000 slides to augment the education of anyone taking an art appreciation course.

The most important aspect of the art department, however, is its committed faculty. Although all the instructors are part time and have other obligations, "every teacher in the department is very devoted to the needs of the students," Sr. Colette said. The faculty sincerely desires that students "be able to develop their talents and make a living from their talents."

Though sometimes undeservedly overlooked, Avila's art department continues developing its vital role in the college by way of the Guild and the Thornhill Gallery and especially by way of the vision of its faculty and students.



## Campus Forum:

### What Do Standardized Tests Test?

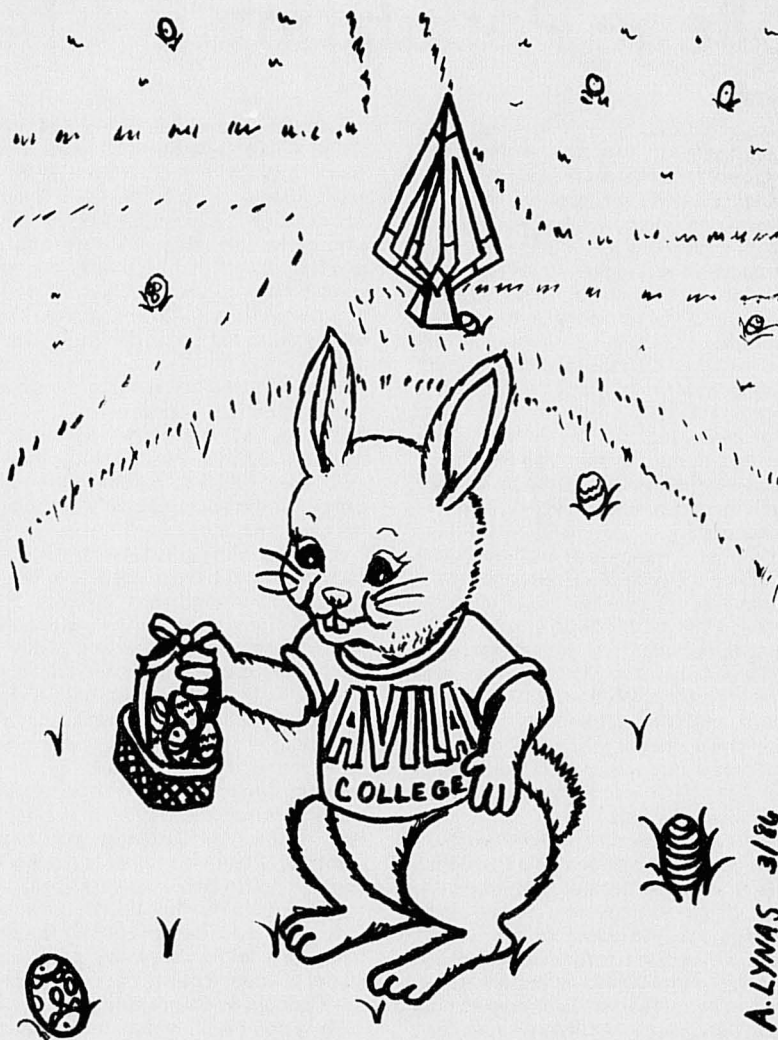
by Pat Prullt

Prior to graduation, all Avila students are required to take the English Proficiency Examination. According to the college catalog, the test is required because the college "recognizes the need for the improvement of English proficiency." Stephen Beach, associate professor of sociology who administers the test, indicated that the test would be a reflection of the student's ability to read and write on a college level. Because colleges have been accused of graduating students who cannot read or write proficiently, many colleges now give an English proficiency test to seniors prior to graduation. I agree that the philosophy behind giving such tests is valid and important for the integrity and reputation of academic institutions.

However, the English proficiency test given at Avila cannot accurately measure a student's knowledge nor use of the language; it is a multiple choice test. The problem with some multiple choice tests is their inability to measure what they purport to measure. While the type of information sought in the test is probably a good indication of a student's technical recognition skills, the test does not give an indication of the student's ability to apply technical skills to writing. Those who advocate standardized tests often operate under the assumption that if a person can label a word, then that person can use that word in all its multiple complexities. Unfortunately, this is not true. Moreover, the multiple choice format does not even insure a true measure of technical skills since, as with the odds of flipping a coin, a multiple choice test can be passed with a minimum of knowledge.

Except in an academic setting, English proficiency is not based on multiple choice tests; it is determined not only by a person's singular use of the language but also a person's ability to use the language in ways comprehensible to 2nd and 3rd parties. An English proficiency test should be any essay test that would demonstrate the ability of a student to communicate properly as reflected in their skills in grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, and development and organization of ideas.

Because of the extensive grading involved, an essay test would certainly be a greater expense to the college. However, if Avila College is sincerely interested in assuring that its graduates are proficient in the English language, not only on standardized test performance but also in areas outside the halls of academia, surely the cost is justified.



"Well, here I am. Now, where did everybody go?...."

### Faculty Staff Retreat

I had the opportunity to observe and participate in the Avila Faculty/Staff Retreat, held at the Ramada Inn on March 6.

I was impressed with the feelings and opinions expressed. The faculty and staff voiced their concerns and frustrations as they discussed how to become more student centered, and evaluated possible ways of strengthening the Avila team. They demonstrated a strong desire to know how to strengthen faculty-staff and faculty-staff/student relationships in order to establish a more personable and unified atmosphere here at Avila.

I enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the retreat -- it was very insightful. I hope the faculty and staff will continue their efforts because they are on the "right track". Avila and its students are fortunate to have such a concerned group serving them and the many contributions of the faculty and staff are greatly appreciated.

Patrick Wood  
Assistant Residential Coordinator  
Student Member of the Minority Student Task Force.

Do you have a comment?

- a reaction? -an idea?

Let yourself be heard

in the Campus Forum.

Send your copy

(see schedule dates on P. 1)

to: Rebecca Wenske

Avila Examiner

O'Reilly Hall

Copy should not

exceed 250 words.

# College Population is Changing

by Pat Pruitt

A young girl broke her arm last week. And after spending much of the night at the hospital emergency room her mother, an Avila student, faced a worse predicament than the broken arm. An important test review was scheduled for that day in one of her classes. Should she take the daughter to the class and have the child sit outside the classroom with her arm elevated? Or would she skip the class, even though she knew the review was necessary for the test? Or should she try to find someone to care for her daughter while she attended the class?

This problem and countless similar problems are faced daily by non-traditional students at Avila. Non-traditional students can be full-time or part-time, day, evening or weekend students; they can be employed full-time, part-time, or not employed at all; they can be mothers, fathers, singles, divorced or widowed.

Nationally, in 1983 non-traditional students comprised 41% of all college enrollments, according to statistics from the National Center for Education. By 1988 that figure is expected to climb to 46% and by 1993, 49% of all college students will be non-traditional students. The average age of an Avila student is now 26 years old, with students ranging in age from 71 to 17. 57% of Avila's students are non-traditional students.

Although age is the most noticeable difference between non-traditional and traditional students, there are other more important differences. One non-traditional student indicated she thought the biggest difference is in study habits. "A young traditional student can spend three uninterrupted hours cramming for a test, but a mother has to struggle to get one hour," she said. "My lifestyle just can't accommodate a long attention span," she added. She says she overcomes this problem by carefully reading over the material several times during short periods of time and this eliminates the need to cram for an exam.

Students who are employed full time and attend Avila on a part-time basis also have this problem, but with another twist. "When I get home after working all day at a demanding job, I'm tired. I can't sit and study very long without falling asleep," a working student said. He added that he mainly depends on weekend time to get his homework done, and that doesn't leave him much free time. "It causes me to burn out on school quickly," he added.

Most non-traditional students agree their biggest problem is deciding priorities from day to day. "My family has to come first, but if they can wait, and I need to study, then I'll put school first," a student said. These priorities can be further complicated if the student also has a job, and as one such student said, "It's a constant juggling act to see what has priority each day. I just have to keep flexible."

Being a non-traditional student also has benefits. Some non-traditional students think learning is easier with a work situation background or more years of living experience. A current Avila student, who has returned to college after a seven-year break, commented, "Learning is easier now as I have a broader background for association."

Another important asset for non-traditional students is their motivation for attending college. Michaelene Clevenger, coordinator of community relations for Avila, says one reason non-traditional students are attending college is because they need more education to further their careers. But, more importantly, she thinks that many non-traditional students attend college because "there are a lot of people who want to grow."

Many non-traditional students, especially if they have not been in school for a long time, are scared to return to school. Clevenger indicates that most Avila students in the category returned to school first at local community colleges and which, she feels, "provide

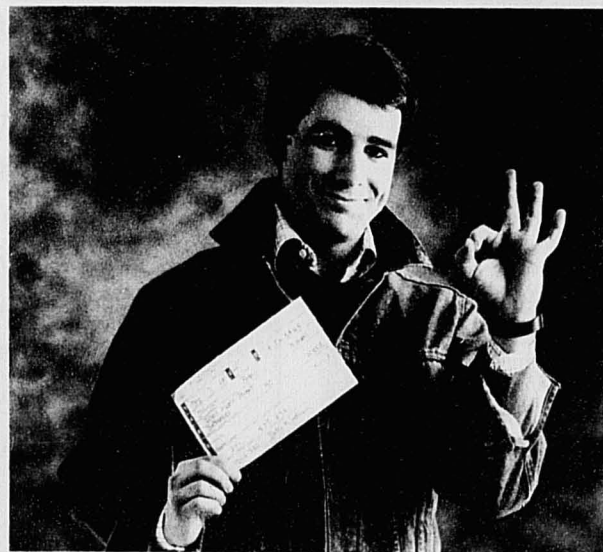
excellent support systems for those just starting out," then transferred to Avila to complete their degrees. She felt Avila is a good school for older students because of the small class size and the support of the faculty. Clevenger, herself, is a former re-entry student.

Once a non-traditional student loses that "school phobia," they often become even less frightened than many traditional students. "I don't worry about the outcome of tests," one non-traditional student said. "Students whose parents are paying their bills are under a great deal more stress than I am...I'm doing this for myself," she added. However, for many non-traditional students for whom going back to school means a job or promotion, pressure and stress are still very real elements.

Most instructors indicate they are impressed with non-traditional students. "They've earned a reputation for having assignments in on time," an instructor said. "They participate in class and don't usually miss classes without a good excuse," she added. One instructor said he feels non-traditional students expect more from their classes, and they aren't afraid to speak out if they are being cheated. Another instructor said he feels the mix of traditional and non-traditional students gives his class a good balance. "Class discussions are much more interesting because of this diversity," he said.

Overall, most non-traditional students speak favorably about their college experiences. One student related this story: "My first class when I returned to college was a psychology class. The class consisted of some young girls and me. Toward the end of the semester, one girl approached me saying she had a terribly serious problem; she needed to know what a generation gap was. I smiled and replied, 'There isn't one.'"

## BE A U.S. REGISTERED MALE



If you're within 30 days of your 18th birthday, you must register with Selective Service at the post office. It only takes five minutes to fill out the card. And don't worry, there hasn't been a draft since 1973. The country just needs your name in case there's ever a national emergency.

**Selective Service Registration.**  
It's quick. It's easy.  
And it's the law.

A public service of this publication.

